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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/074,770

Applicant(s)

VAN DE MEULENHOF, DENNIS

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless-

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (US 6, 985, 003 B1).

Referring to claim 1,

Kobayashi teaches method for executing a reconfiguration after occurrence of a reconfiguration trigger in a self-configuring digital network comprising a plurality of physical nodes (col. 5, line 14-38, "A bus reset refers to processing in which the connection configuration of the various devices comprising the communication system (hereafter referred to as nodes) recognized up to the current point in time, and the communication addresses of

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those devices (hereafter referred to as node IDs) are initialized, the new connection configuration is recognized once again, and communication addresses are specified once again. The next section is a brief description of the processing procedures involved in a bus reset. These procedures include recognition of the tiered connection configuration of the communication system and assignment of physical communication addresses for each of the nodes.”)’ said method comprising:

detecting the reconfiguration trigger (col. 9, line 50-52, “If a bus reset 707 occurs during asynchronous transmission of single-segment data, the source 402 interrupts the transmission of the segmented data.”);

determining, in a first physical node (col. 16, 42-56, “For example, in the configurations of the first to fourth embodiments, the functions of the controller 401, the source 402 and the destination 403 were described assuming that those various devices were provided, but the present invention is not necessarily limited to those circumstances. For instance, the configuration might be designed to include devices which provide the same functions as those of the controller 401 and the source 402 indicated in the configurations of the first to fourth embodiments. If the present invention is configured in this way, because communication between the controller 401 and the source 402 is carried out without a transmission channel being shared by the various devices, it may be possible to increase the transmission efficiency of the overall communication system.”, Note: The controller 401 and the source 402 are now one device, as such it is a first physical node.), other physical nodes that had been conducting a

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communication relation with the first physical node before the reconfiguration trigger (col. 7, line 24-26, "Following that, the TV 101 is set as the node which controls communications between the source 402 and the destination 403, namely, the controller 401.", col. 9, line 60-63, "After bus reset processing has been concluded, the controller 401 which detected the bus reset 707 checks to see whether or not the node IDs of the source 402 and the destination 403 have been changed." Note: Controller controls communication between the source and the destination, and controller and the source device can be the same device as explained above.);

marking all logical node mappings on the plurality of physical nodes as invalid (col. 5, line 14-38);

updating, in the first physical node, mapping information for a second physical node marked as invalid only when the first physical node seeks to communicate with the second physical node (col. 9, line 63-col.10, line 2, "Following that, the controller 401 issues instructions to the source 402 and the destination 403 to resume data transmission (708 and 709). The communication packet carrying the instruction to resume transmission which is sent to the source 402 contains the node ID of the destination 403 (Note: this is updating, destination is second physical node.) which was specified by the bus reset 707.") and

storing an overall network topology in a subset composed of any one or more physical nodes of the network (col. 2, line 23-27, "The bus reset is a function by which new topologies are recognized and the addresses assigned to

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the various nodes (node IDs) are set automatically. This function enables plug-and-play functions and hotline insertion/removal functions to be supported with the IEEE 1394-1995 standards.”)

Referring to claim 2,

Kobayashi teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein such reconfiguration undertakes to re-establish an existing mapping pattern of logical identifiers from a hitherto communication-related sub-sets among said nodes, whilst seeking replacement of interrupted communication-relations on a basis of necessity. (col. 16, 42-56, “For example, in the configurations of the first to fourth embodiments, the functions of the controller 401, the source 402 and the destination 403 were described assuming that those various devices were provided, but the present invention is not necessarily limited to those circumstances. For instance, the configuration might be designed to include devices which provide the same functions as those of the controller 401 and the source 402 indicated in the configurations of the first to fourth embodiments. If the present invention is configured in this way, because communication between the controller 401 and the source 402 is carried out without a transmission channel being shared by the various devices, it may be possible to increase the transmission efficiency of the overall communication system.”, Note: The controller 401 and the source 402 are now one device, as such it is a first physical node.”, col. 7, line 24-26, “Following that, the TV 101 is set as the node which controls communications between the source 402 and the destination 403, namely, the controller 401.”, col. 9, line 60-63, “After bus reset processing has

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been concluded, the controller 401 which detected the bus reset 707 checks to see whether or not the node IDs of the source 402 and the destination 403 have been changed.” Note: Only affected (on Controller carries out the procedure to “re-establish an existing mapping pattern of logical identifiers from a hitherto communication-related sub-sets among said nodes, whilst seeking replacement of interrupted communication-relations” , thus “on a basis of necessity.”)

Referring to claim 3,

Kobayashi teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon detection of an invalid and unrestorable mapping, a network-wide query is undertaken for a replacement target node for effecting such mapping. (col. 9, line 60-63, “After bus reset processing has been concluded, the controller 401 which detected the bus reset 707 checks to see whether or not the node IDs of the source 402 and the destination 403 have been changed.”, col. 16, 42-56, “For example, in the configurations of the first to fourth embodiments, the functions of the controller 401, the source 402 and the destination 403 were described assuming that those various devices were provided, but the present invention is not necessarily limited to those circumstances. For instance, the configuration might be designed to include devices which provide the same functions as those of the controller 401 and the source 402 indicated in the configurations of the first to fourth embodiments. If the present invention is configured in this way, because communication between the controller 401 and the source 402 is carried out without a transmission channel being shared by the various devices, it may be possible to increase the transmission efficiency of the overall communication

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system.”, Note: The controller 401 and the source 402 are now one device, as such it is a first physical node.” Note: When the source and the controller is “one device” as stated is in communication with destination device and the communication is interrupted, then one device will inherently conduct the network-wide query to check whether or not the node ID of the destination 403 have been changed.”(a replacement target node for effecting such mapping)).

Referring to claim 4,

Kobayashi teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, whilst in association with said reconfiguration storing an overall network topology in a subset made up of one or more physical nodes of the network (Fig. 1).

Referring to claim 5,

The reference teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network is based on IEEE 1394 or USB (col. 4, line 28-35)

Referring to claim 6,

Claim 6 is a claim to a system being arranged for implementing a method as claimed in claim 1. Therefore claim 6 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

Referring to claim 7,

Claim 6 is a claim to an apparatus being arranged for operating as a node station in a system as claimed in claim 6.. Therefore claim 7 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 6.

Conclusion

Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am-4:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan A. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ashok B. Patel
Examiner
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ABP
